GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:624
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN UNDER BRGF SCHEME
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Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the works/projects which have been taken up in various districts under BRGF scheme;

(b) whether the works/projects taken under the scheme is monitored;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the role of the Panchayats in this regard;

(d) whether the Government provides training to Panchayat members and Panchayat workers for proper implementation of the scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount sanctioned under this scheme to Gram Panchayats and the work done out of this sanctioned amount in various Districts including Yavatmal District of Maharashtra?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a): The Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme covers 250 districts in 27 States. 147 of these districts were covered under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY), which has been subsumed into the BRGF Programme. Of these, 55 districts have claimed their total entitlement under RSVY. Releases continue to be made to the 92 erstwhile RSVY districts which have not yet claimed their total entitlement of Rs. 45 crore under RSVY.

The objective of the RSVY Scheme was to address the problems of low agricultural productivity and unemployment as also to fill critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure. An illustrative list of schemes taken up under RSVY would include a large variety of works such as anganwadi centres, houses for the homeless, primary health centres, veterinary health centres, irrigation structures, school buildings, roads, culverts, bridges, fish ponds, rural market sheds, income generation schemes etc. under various sectors.

The objective of the BRGF programme is to bridge critical gaps in local infrastructure and address other development requirements that are not being adequately met through existing fund inflows. The works/projects taken up in various districts under BRGF would therefore depend on the felt needs and their prioritisation by the Panchayats in Rural Areas and Urban Local bodies in Urban areas and the District Planning Committees. 57 district plans have been examined and processed for releases so far. The works/projects taken up under BRGF in these districts mainly include infrastructure such as construction of anganwadi centers, kitchen sheds, sub-health centers, ayurvedic dispensary buildings, veterinary dispensaries and hospitals, laboratory and library building for schools, Higher Secondary School buildings, hostel for students, Panchayat Bhawans, intra village roads, drainage, sanitation, river protection, electrification, drinking water supply, sports facilities, water tanks, fishery tanks, drainage facilities and provision for vocational training, micro credit etc.

(b) & (c): With regard to the monitoring of implementation, the guidelines of the BRGF stipulate peer review by Panchayats up to the Intermediate Panchayat level, review at the district level by a Committee constituted by the District Planning Committee, review by the State High Powered Committee and social audit by Gram Sabhas in rural areas and Area Sabhas in urban Areas.

(d) & (e): The Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) provides Rs. 250 crore per annum calculated at the rate of Rs. 1 crore per district to States for capacity building of the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipalities to strengthen local governance. This includes training, technical assistance in planning, establishment of extension or resource centers at each Intermediate Panchayat level and provision of computers in Panchayats. In addition, 5% of the development grant allocated to each district can be used for augmenting staff at the Gram Panchayat level. The training curriculum is based on the National Capability Building Framework developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and includes basic functional courses in accounts, social audit, right to information, Panchayat revenues, core functions under taken by the Panchayat in the schemes and sectors covered by the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and functional literacy.

(f): The allocation under BRGF is made district-wise. The State Governments are to decide the inter-se allocation to each Panchayat and Urban Local Body on the basis of a normative formula, which is to determine (a) the distribution of funds between urban and rural local bodies, (b) the share of each level of Panchayat within the three levels of Panchayats and (c) the share of each Panchayat or

Municipality concerned.

In Maharashtra, 12 districts are covered under the BRGF programme. Of these, 9 districts were covered under the RSVY Programme. Since none of these districts have completed RSVY, they continue to draw funds for the completion of the scheme. The remaining three districts namely Amravati, Aurangabad and Yavatmal have not sent their BRGF proposals based on district plans consolidated by the District Planning Committees. The main constraint in respect of Maharashtra is that District Planning Committees have not yet been constituted in accordance with Article 243 ZD of the Constitution. The State Government has promised to constitute the District Planning Committees and send the plans for Amravati, Aurangabad and Yavatmal by March 2008. An amount of Rs. 1.2 crore at the rate of Rs. 10 lakh per district has been released to the State Government to secure professional support in order to prepare district plans. Rs. 30 crore has been released to the districts of Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Hingoli and Nanded (Rs. 7.5 crore each) towards their entitlement under RSVY during 2007-08. An amount of Rs. 6.19 crore has been released to Maharashtra during 2006-07 for the capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Details of allocation and releases to 12 districts of Maharashtra may be seen at annex-I.

Annexure −I

Backward Region Grant Fund Comprehensive District −Wise entitlement of Maharashtra ,2007-08

Sl.No.	Districts	RSVY/non RSVY	Total Amount allocation on BRGF for 2007-08 (Rs in Crore)	Balance under RSVY in 2007-08 (Rs in Crore)	Released to be released in 2007-08 (Rs in Crore)	Amount Advance for District Planning (Rs in Crore)
1.	Ahmednagar	RSVY	30.68 #	22.50	.10	
2.	Amravati	NonRSVY	24.13		.10	
3.	Aurangabad	NonRSVY	23.37		.10	
4.	Bhandara	RSVY	15.16	15.00	.10	
5.	Chandrapur	RSVY	22.36	7.50	15.00	.10
6.	Dhule	RSVY	18.71	22.50	.10	
7	Gadchiroli	RSVY	22.02	7.50	7.50	.10
8.	Gondia	RSVY	16.40 #	15.00	.10	
9.	Hingoli	RSVY	15.39	7.50	15.00	.10
10.	Nanded	RSVY	23.63	7.50	7.50	.10
11.	Nandurbar	RSVY	16.98	22.50	.10	
12.	Yavatmal	NonRSVY	24.74		.10	
	Total		253.57	30.00	142.50	1.20

Total amount released in 2007-08 is Rs 143.70 Crore (142.50 Crore + 1.20 Crore).

The proposals for release of next installment are under process.